

Torrance Herald

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The Planners' Dreams

If President Johnson is sincere in his desire to "get a dollar's value for a dollar" he had best huddle with Secretary of the Interior Udall and call a halt to the secretary's Passamaquoddy tidal power project in Maine. It represents Udall's most recent and blatant effort to wedge the federal government further into the electric power business.

From our corner here we can't see where Udall's report to the president has generated any steam justifying the New England proposal. It's a lot of hot air. And it leaves us cold.

Without wishing to delve into the maze of statistics that clearly show another case of federal power planners misrepresenting figures and using gross distortions to give their latest pet project a semblance of practicality it suffices to state that taxpayers could be asked to ante up a billion dollars to provide power that investor-owned companies could deliver for a fraction of the cost.

Passamaquoddy was first launched by congress as an unemployment relief measure in 1935 and it died a year later when additions to the original \$7 million were denied. In 1941 the Federal Power Commission reported adversely on the development, declaring existing hydroelectric installations could do the job more efficiently.

As recently as 1961 the International Joint Commission reported the project was not economically feasible. But in 1963 the Department of Interior submitted a reversal of the IJC findings. Economy is not synonymous with Passamaquoddy. Here is another brazen attempt by the advocates for federal electric power to boondoggle at the expense of the taxpayer. And their efforts should be resisted strongly, from Maine to California.

A Grim Struggle

"Your Taxes", which is a publication of the Oregon Tax Research organization, recently described, in terse and accurate fashion, one of the great conflicts of this time: "Taxpayers are in a grim struggle to increase the level of spendable income and to find means of retaining more of their income for their own purposes. Governments are in the same struggle and seek to increase the level of spendable income by increasing taxes.

"It is at this point that the desires of government come into severe and increasing conflict with the desires of the taxpayers and the result is a mounting tide of resentment against the expansion of government . . ."

This sounds like the problem of the irresistible force confronted with the immovable object. But there is hope that the force, as represented by the taxpayers at large, is gaining in influence and cohesion. To quote "Your Taxes" again, ". . . it is apparent that taxation is now a matter of keen personal interest to an increasing number of voters." The forces that demand economical government and the restriction of government to those matters for which it was intended and which only it can perform, can be expected to burgeon.

Opinions of Others

This is a fact to ponder: While the number of farms and farm workers in the U. S. has dwindled considerably since 1935, the Department of Agriculture has jumped up the number of its employees by quite a margin. Back in 1935 the Department hired one employee for 80 farms while at present there is one person engaged for every 28 farms in the U. S. Fewer farms but more folks on the payroll! That seems to be a familiar pattern in Washington.—Worcester (N.Y.) Times & Monitor.

This is the time of year when a person has to start the annual battle with the taxes. As sure as January 1 has rolled around, you can depend on getting reminders from every form of government that it's time to consider what you owe "them" for the services you receive.—Canton (N.C.) Enterprise.

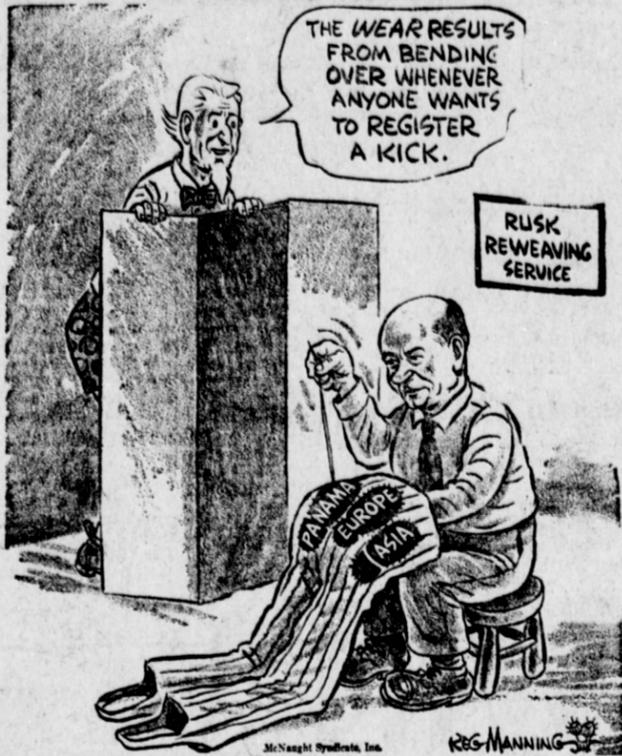
It is amazing that there are still millions of Americans who are proud of working, proud of a job well done, proud of using their intelligence, and who spurn the welfare graft. Indeed, those under 30 years old can remember nothing but the welfare state.—St Clair (Mo.) Chronicle.

Public Meeting Calendar

Listed below are meetings scheduled for the City Council and City Commissions during the month of February, 1964.

Scheduled Meeting	Date	Where	Time
Traffic Safety Coun.	17	Room #209	7:00 p.m.
City Council	18	Council Chams.	5:30 p.m.
Planning Commission	19	Council Chams.	7:00 p.m.
Tor. Beaut. Com.	20	Council Chams.	7:45 p.m.
Youth Welfare Com.	20	Room #209	8:00 p.m.
City Council	25	Council Chams.	8:00 p.m.
Rec. Commission	26	Council Chams.	8:00 p.m.
Water Commission	27	Room #209	7:00 p.m.
Airport Commission	27	Council Chams.	8:00 p.m.

Seat Of His Troubles



James Dorias

Ages-Old Fight Against Poverty Gets New Front

New Frontiersman John Kenneth Galbraith, in his best-seller book, "The Affluent Society," describes poverty in America as falling into two categories: "case poverty"—due to the failure of the individual to cope with his environment because of mental deficiency, bad health or other defects; and "insular poverty"—due to the reluctance of large numbers of people to pull up roots in depressed areas, and move to greener pastures.

In observing that at least some poor people bear some responsibility for their condition, Mr. Galbraith sounds not unlike Senator Barry Goldwater.

Irrespective of the causes of poverty, politicians the world over have never lacked confidence in promising cures, including the King of France who in 1859 promised every peasant "a fowl in his pot every Sunday," and Republican Herbert Hoover, who campaigned on the similar slogan, "a chicken in every pot."

President Johnson is merely the most recent politician to recognize the vote-getting potential in declaring "all-out war" on poverty.

Actually, the U.S. government has been waging war on poverty for a long time. In examining government programs in this field, the magazine U. S. News & World Report lists the following anti-poverty projects of federal agencies:

Social Security benefits to 17.3 million retired people, dependents and survivors; pension payments to 1.4 million disabled persons; payments of \$5 billion a year for public assistance; unemployment insurance payments; job retaining; vocational assistance to handicapped people; hospital payments for the needy aged; veterans' benefits; school lunch subsidies; free food to 6 million people

Quote

Financial columnist Sylvia Porter says: "We now have the first solid dollars-and-cents signal that the current 33-month-old business upturn will continue well into 1964. The signal lies in this one fact: American businessmen already plan a 4 per cent hike in their spending on new plants and equipment in 1964 to a record amount of \$40.7 billion."

A quotation from Abraham Lincoln: "Every man is said to have his peculiar ambition. Whether it be true or not, I can say for one, that I have no other so great as that of being truly esteemed by my fellow men."

by donations and food-stamps; subsidized rents in low-income housing; college loans to needy students; redevelopment loans and grants for distressed areas; public works in distressed areas.

The current definition of a poverty-stricken family by White House planners is any family unit with less than \$3,000 of cash income a year. By this definition, half of all British families are poverty-stricken, and virtually all Russian families. In America, one in every five families, or

9.3 million families, would be so categorized.

This is quite a drop since 1947, when in terms of current purchasing power, one in three American families would have been considered poverty-stricken, by this definition.

Even so, the cost to U. S. taxpayers, if the government were to wage all-out war on poverty, regardless of cause, by cash payments to all families earning less than \$3,000 a year sufficient to bring their income to that level, would be \$13.5 billion annually.

ROYCE BRIER

Stand By! You May Get That Tax Cut Some Day

If you count on a little more moola soon — for a new television set or a down payment on a 1958 clunk—stay alert. Even so, this tax-cut talk may turn into an exercise in euphoria.

Those people in Washington are whetting axes and drawing comparative tables for your meditation, come November. Time was when tax-cut talk split the country down the middle, visionaries and hard noses. Mr. Kennedy experienced it, but a new President begets a new outlook.

So everybody in some degree is now soft on a cut, and dat ol' debbil Deficit Spending flaps away. Businessmen want it because they think everybody will spend his savings, and besides they will get a little trim to the balance books. Salary and wage stiffs want it because the picture tube is getting

fuzzy and the 1953 clunk needs rings. Who else is there?

Mr. Johnson believes it can be done by trimming defense and other spending, then rearranging spending to diminish unemployment and get the show on the road. There used to be a story a cut would stimulate the economy that the Government's revenue wouldn't drop at all. You don't hear it so much now, but you have to try it to see if it will work.

Anyway, withholding may fall from 18 per cent to 14 per cent. Something like this has rarely occurred since they disbanded the Union Armies, and the excitement will get you right here! Now, if it doesn't inflate—but fiddlesticks!

There is a small class of Americans even more thrilled by the Washington goings-on than you are. It comprises su-

A Bookman's Notebook

Gourmand's Light Lunch Described By Reporter

William Hogan

One of the late A. J. Liebling's favorite pastimes was to dine well. Another was to write about his epicurean feats, and he did both exceedingly well. As befits a gourmand, Mr. Liebling's girth was more than ample in his later years, in spite of an occasional gesture toward dieting — a form of spartan living he thoroughly hated.

In an essay, "Light Lunch," Liebling described a meal he took one winter at the Hotel du Commerce in Vendome. It had been an enormous affair. Among other delicacies it included five or six small beef-steaks washed down with the best local wine and a pheasant served on a skinned, lightly toasted loaf of bread in which a trough had been made and fitted with a salami of the bird's insides. It was the best bird in his memory, he confided. He also confided that he was writing that particular essay on a lunch exclusively of turtle soup, "as I am trying to take off weight."

Liebling did not believe in losing weight. Perhaps that is what really killed this superb journalist and raconteur. I am reminded of his delights at table in "The Most of A. J. Liebling," an excellent collection of his pieces over three decades. Simon and Schuster published it a couple of months before his recent death, at 59. After a second reading I recommend it again.

Strength for These Days

(From The Bible)

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.—(Isa. 1:19)

Whenever faced with difficult circumstances we must remember that Christ is with us in all adversity; that He cannot fail to bless our life.

In a section titled "La Bonne Vie" we find:

He reveled in the cuisine of lower Normandy, with its best butter, best beef, spider crab, partridge poached in ice cream and singed in old Calvados. It is a region where the wine labels are "a triumph of lithography."

He understood a good pilaf (Armenian, Greek, Turk) and noted that the French in general are almost as bad with rice as the Chinese, "who are the very worst."

He frowned on vodka which to him was like a "dry," or non-beery beer, or a "light" non-Scotch Scotch. With its no-taste, no-color, no-smell, vodka "is the ideal intoxicant for the drinker who wants no reminder of how hurt Mother would be if she knew what he was doing."

To Liebling abstinence was a sin. Hitler, he noted, "was

the archetype of the abstemious man. When the other krauts saw him drink water in the Beer Hall, they should have known he was not to be trusted."

Khrushchev, too, "looks like the kind of man his physicians must continually try to diet, and historians will someday correlate this sporadic deprivations, to which he submits 'for his own good,' with his public tantrums. If there is to be a world cataclysm, it will probably be set off by skim milk, Melba toast and mineral oil on the salad."

His New Yorker colleague Joseph Mitchell noted that Neibling's early out-of-print books vanish almost immediately when they turn up in second-hand bookstores, a certain sign that a book will endure. "The Most of A. J. Liebling" will become one of these. If you read it you'll agree.

Our Man Hoppe

A Pox on You, Fidel Legree

Art Hoppe

What a crisis! Mr. Castro's shut off the water to our Guantanamo Naval Base. Our Senators demand a Cuban blockade. General Goldwater demands we call out the Marines. But I say Mr. Castro's nefarious new low-pressure tactic will backfire.

For it is clearly only the first step. Next you know, he'll sneakily cut off the heat. And then he won't send in all those Cuban janitors to clean up the place any more. Oh, I know it's hard to think of our boys huddled together in that crummy old tenement, pounding on the radiators. But if they can just stick it out long enough, they'll save the day. For Mr. Castro is unwittingly handing us the one perfect weapon to use against him.

Not a blockade. Not an invasion. No sir. A rent strike.

A rent strike will turn the tables overnight. For the whole trouble with Cuba isn't that it's a big danger. It's that it's a little one. Cuba's just plain too small. And while we could lick it with one wing tied behind our back, it wouldn't be fair. The whole world would say we were bullies. And they'd all root for poor little Cuba.

But a rent strike! It's ideal. I can see our sailors and marines now, their uniforms soiled and tattered, limping bravely around the perimeter of the base, armed with placards. Like: "No Water. No Rent!" Or: "Castro Must Redecorate!"

We'll point out how we've faithfully paid our \$282 a month rent for years. We'll note what a slum it must be, located in such a low-rent district. We'll prove Mr. Castro's never laid a paintbrush on the place. We'll show that he doesn't even live on the base.

In a twinkling, Mr. Castro will be transformed in the world's eye from a poor, little underdog fighting the Goliath of Yankee imperialism. And henceforth he will be that most despised of despicable ogres: a landlord. And not only a landlord, but an unfair, oppressive, negligent slum landlord. And an absentee landlord to boot.

Mr. Castro won't have a friend left. Not even Mr. Khrushchev. Can you imagine Mr. Khrushchev aiding an oppressive, absentee slum landlord? Mr. Marx would roll over in his grave. The whole world will weep for our plight. Because everybody loves a tenant.

Mr. Castro will be on his knees. "Please," he'll say. "I will turn on the cold water. I will even install hot water. Out of my own pocket, I will put up some nice chintz curtains and maybe even some brand new linoleum on the kitchen floor."

And when he's all through fixing up the place, you know what we'll do? We'll break the lease.

Yes sir, we'll pack up and move to a nicer neighborhood. Like maybe Palm Beach, which is a much handier commute. What a diabolically dirty trick.

So you see? It's a perfect solution. We really show up that Mr. Castro; we win everybody's sympathy; and best of all, we get out of this lease on all that slum property we no longer need.

Of course, it's a radical step. But, what the heck, I say after all these years in Latin America, we might just once try winding up on the side of the tenants.

There's an awful lot more of them.

(Distributed by Chronicle Features)

Morning Report:

Sargent Shriver gets the permanent jobs in Washington. The head of the Peace Corps in now also in charge of the drive against poverty. I figure he'll not run out of things to do for some time.

It was back in 1937 that President Roosevelt saw out third of the country "ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished." The figure now, according to President Johnson, is down to one fifth.

Fractions always were tricky for me. But if I remember how to subtract them, we have improved things by 2/15ths in the last 27 years. Which is not exactly some kind of a speed record in a day when we can hit the near side of the moon in 66 hours.

Abe Mellinkoff



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